

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 20, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 14-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill et al. (U.S. Patent 6,362,540).

In regard to claim 14, the Office Action asserted, in section 2, that Hill et al. discloses and shows in FIG. 1, "An electricity generation system comprising a first generator (22, power block 2) a second controller coupled to the second generator and a remote control and monitoring means coupled to both controllers to monitor and control the generators." In order to better distinguish the features of independent claim 14 from Hill et al., Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to recite that the first and second controllers are coupled directly to the generators. This is in distinct contrast to the teachings of Hill et al. that provide a master controller (as part of power block 2) coupled to busses 36 and 28. There does not appear to be any second controller coupled directly to a second generator in the teachings of Hill et al. Instead, Hill et al. provides an external supervisor 30, that "May be associated with a specific power block 22 and such an external supervisor 30 may or may not have substantially the same functionality as master controller 34." See column 4, lines 25-27. Accordingly, even if external supervisor 30 could be considered to be a second controller, Hill et al. does not teach or suggest coupling the second controller directly to a second generator. It is the provision of individual controllers with individual generators that facilitate high level interactions between the controllers and the remote control and monitoring node. As set forth in Applicants' specification on page 24, "Node 128 can be designed to allow a user to simultaneously control, monitor, and calibrate simultaneous operation of a multitude of systems 100."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 14 is allowable over Hill et al. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 15-31 are allowable as well by virtue of their dependency therefrom, either directly or indirectly.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Christopher R. Christenson, Reg. No. 42,413  
Suite 1600 - International Centre  
900 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319  
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

CRC:sew